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SUBJECT: TURKEY: POL-MIL ROUND-UP, August 2005

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(Note: This is one of the regular series of unclassified reports on significant Turkish defense and national security issues in the press and other open sources. We welcome feedback on whether these reports are useful. End note)

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NSC Mum on Revised National Security Policy Document

[1](#)1. (SBU) Discussion of a new National Security Policy document (outlining the government's priorities with regard to threats to Turkey's internal and external security), which was postponed to August from the June NSC meeting, was not discussed in the NSC bi-monthly meeting of August 23. No official statement was released regarding the postponement. Publicly, NSC officials have stated that the annual Supreme Military Council meeting (Aug. 1-4) which decided the 2005 promotion, retirement and assignments of Turkish General Staff officers took precedence. Privately they have insisted that the postponement was due solely to a lack of time for all agencies to review the draft and that disagreement between the government and the military over policy priorities is minimal. Our academic contacts believe the issue will be kept off of the agenda until after the Oct. 3 start of Turkey's EU accession negotiations. According to one Turkish academic, the government does not want to announce a final decision on the 25-page draft document -- which had previously defined Greece as an external threat -- in the run-up to the start of accession talks. For that same reason, our NSC contact has suggested that the security policy document may not be considered until December.

[1](#)2. (U) Following the August meeting, the NSC released a declaration reiterating Turkey's determination to continue the fight against terrorism. However, according to the center-left daily Radikal, a report drafted by the NSC Secretary-General warned that the struggle against terrorism

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should not damage Turkey's membership negotiations with the EU and that the military's demand for broader authority in the fight against terrorism could do so. The same daily wrote on August 24 that Turkish military expressed uneasiness about PM Erdogan's early August public reference to Turkey's "Kurdish problem"; emphasized the importance of coordination between state organs before making such statements; and dismissed the possibility that a new policy on the sensitive topic of Kurdish rights could be adopted.

Turkey's Security Relations with Other Countries

[1](#)3. (U) Greece: Turkish and Greek Battalions under the command of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) held a joint exercise on August 23. According to a GOT statement during the exercise, 62 Turkish and Greek soldiers in Kosovo met at check points on the border with Albania and in the Dragas region of Kosovo to train in how to combat against illegal border crossings, and weapons, drug and human smuggling (The semi-governmental Anatolian News Agency).

[1](#)4. (U) Georgia: Georgia's NSC Secretary-General Gela Bejuashvili stated that Georgia prepared a new state security document on terrorism in which Turkey, Ukraine and the US were noted as the most important strategic partners in the fight against terrorism. (The Anatolian News Agency).

[1](#)5. (U) Nigeria: Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu, who received his Nigerian counterpart Magaji Mohammed on August 26, said that Turkey would welcome a security cooperation agreement with Nigeria (The Anatolian News Agency).

16. (U) Meeting with his Kyrgyz counterpart in Kyrgyzstan in mid August, Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul reaffirmed Turkey's military support for the Kyrgyz Republic (The monthly Defense and Aerospace Newsletter).

Defense Industry Activity

17. (U) Turkey's Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (Savunma Sanayi Mustesarligi - SSM) has opened an international competition for the combined purchase of 32 military helicopters and 20 helos for the Forestry Service valued at USD 700 million. Responses to SSM's Request for Proposal are due December 5 (Defense News).

18. (U) SSM has invited bids for an under-water and above-water surveillance and detection system for Yunus-Aksaz and Foca Naval Bases. The project also involves delivery of active acoustic systems, passive acoustic systems, diver detection systems, electro-optic, radar, and communication systems for the defense operation center at those bases (The Anatolian News Agency).

19. (U) The Turkish defense firm Aselsan signed a contract valued at USD 17.4 million with the IUP (Israeli UAV Partnership) as part of Turkey's broader agreement with Israel for the purchase of UAVs. (center-left daily Radikal).

110. (U) Aselsan won a USD 100 million tender to sell 18 Stinger missiles to the Dutch military (The center-right Hurriyet daily).

111. (U) Some 50 local and foreign companies (including Lockheed Martin) have requested from SSM the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Satellite Project Request for Information (RFI). The project is valued at around USD 250 million (The monthly Defense and Aerospace Newsletter).

112. (U) The bid submission deadline for the ATAK helicopter tender was extended for a second time, from Sept. 13 to November 8 (the original due date was early June). US industry sources believe that the second postponement was due to a lack of bidders. Turkish media sources indicated that a South African company which took the tender has decided not to bid due to the onerous RFP Terms and Conditions (T&Cs). The center-daily Sabah reported that the Russian Kamov Company would submit a bid for the ATAK helicopter tender; however the Kamov does not meet the tandem configuration requirement and was eliminated from consideration in the original tender won by Bell Textron. Our industry contacts suggest that Eurocopter and Italy's Agusta remain interested in participation. However, the T&Cs may prove too onerous for any company to submit a compliant bid.

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